

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated November 2, 2004. Claim 19 has been canceled. Claims 1-18 are now pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claim 18, and the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 10, 11, 13-16 and 18 contain allowable subject matter. In this respect, allowable claims 8, 10 and 14 have essentially been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 8, 10, 11, 14 and 18 are now in condition for allowance given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Corbo. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 as amended positively recites the carpet as a claimed feature, and also requires that "a gap between the spaced apart upper and lower members receives an end of said carpet." Corbo fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 1. In Corbo, groove 56 cannot possibly receive any carpet since this groove is filled with protrusion or lip 54. Thus, Corbo is entirely unrelated to amended claim 1.

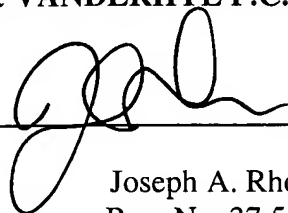
It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

RISSONE
Appl. No. 10/751,299
April 4, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Rhoa', is written over a horizontal line.

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